

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0271

DEPT ALSO FOR NEA/RA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PORG UN RQ

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: PURETO RICO

REF: STATE 49330

1. DURING SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS ON MARCH 13 ON A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS (SEPTELS), AMB DISCUSSED PUERTO RICO WITH GOVT OF QATAR UN PERMREP JASIM JAMAL WHO PRESENTLY ON CONSULTATIONS IN DOHA, FONMIN DIRECTOR OF INTL AFFS FAHD AL KAWARI AND FONMIN DIRECTOR OF POL AFFS ABDULLAH AL ATTIAH. WE OUTLINED ESSENTIALS OF US POSITION, EMPHASIZED HIGH IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE TO USG AND ITS POTENTIAL IMPACT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND UNDERLINED USG VIEW THAT THOSE WHO ENDORSE CUBAN LANGUAGE ON PUERTO RICO FROM LIMA NAC DOCUMENTS ARE ADVOCATING INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL US AFFAIRS.

2. QATARI REPS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US VIEWS, WITH WHICH JAMAL SAID HE FAMILIAR. JAMAL STATED THAT IF AND WHEN ISSUE COMES UP AGAIN AT UN, GOQ WOULD, AS USUAL, CONSULT AND DEVELOP ITS POSITION IN CONFORMITY WITH ARAB BLOC CONSENSUS, AND BECAUSE OF THIS HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO INDICATE EVEN PRELIMINARY GOQ VIEWS ON SUBJECT.

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3. WE SPECIFICALLY QUERIED AL ATTIYAH, WHO ATTENDED LIMA CONFERENCE, ON WHAT POSITION GOQ HAD TAKEN ON CUBAN LANGUAGE ON LSERTO RICO AT LIMA. AFTER CHECKING MINISTRY'S RECORDS, AL ATTIYAH STATED THAT GOQ HAD "ABSTAINED" ON THIS MATTER. WE ASKED ATTIYAH THAT GOQ MAKE ITS "ABSTENTION" POSITION CLEAR WHENEVER AGENDA ITEM ON PUERTO RICO ARISES IN PREPARATION FOR NEXT NAC SUMMIT. HE AGREED TO TAKE THIS REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION.

4. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTTEL, WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP OUR VIEWS ON PUERTO RICO BEFORE GOQ IN COURSE OF NORMAL CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY.
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